

## ABSTRACT

A stringed instrument having a stationary support; one part of the instrument interfacing  
5 with the musician’s sternum, another part pivotally interfacing with the support using two pivot  
axes mounted perpendicular to each other, first axis dependent on second axis. The longitudinal axis  
of the instrument is aligned with the musician’s anatomical median plane; the support enabling  
congruent movement between the instrument and the musician’s swaying torso while preventing  
rotation of the instrument around its longitudinal axis, thus improving ergonomic posture and  
10 technique. The instrument has an effective string length less than that of a cello and greater than that  
of a viola, for enabling such ergonomic positioning.

The instrument further has a non-traditional nut-bridge configuration for a more ergonomic  
fingerboard topology and alignment of known points of contact; further, the instrument has a  
modular fingerboard for simplified assembly and convenient interchange of either the fingerboard or  
15 the instrument; further, the instrument has a geared tuning system, enabling tuning by sliding a finger  
tangentially along a wheel, for more intuitive tuning by translating linear pitch perception into linear  
finger motion.